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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Kuniyoshi NAKASHIMA and Toru NAKAGAWA

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For: MEDICAL IMAGE DIAGNOSING SUPPORT APPARATUS AND METHOD

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently with the above-identified patent application.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the **Listing of Claims** section which begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.